

# **NATION EMBRACES PRESIDENT OBAMA'S HONEST BUDGET BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE**

*“We will rebuild, we will recover, and the  
United States of America will emerge stronger than before.”*

*“What is required now is for this country to pull together, confront boldly the  
challenges we face, and take responsibility for our future once more.”*

*– President Barack Obama, 2/24/09*

President Obama's address last night to a Joint Session of Congress called for a “new era of responsibility,” and assured the country that even when faced with economic and fiscal crises, America has the resilience to emerge stronger than before. As the President said in his remarks, the budget outline he will deliver to Congress this week “does not attempt to solve every problem or address every issue. It reflects the stark reality of what we've inherited – a trillion dollar deficit, a financial crisis, and a costly recession.” Congressional Democrats pledge to work together with the Obama Administration to enact an honest and responsible budget, restore confidence in our economy, and put our nation back on a path to a sustainable fiscal future.

**Below are excerpts from a few of today's editorials, commending President Obama for his plans to restore our nation to fiscal health:**

“He sounded confident — promising that the nation will rebuild and ‘emerge stronger than before’ — without minimizing the grave problems that must first be surmounted. He drew a bright line between his view of the responsibilities of government and that of the Republicans who helped create this mess and have stubbornly provided no help to Mr. Obama in cleaning it up...The economic crisis requires immediate, bold and comprehensive action. And on Tuesday night, Mr. Obama displayed the ambition and the sweeping vision that won him the White House — and that this crisis demands.” – **New York Times, 2/25/09**

“Putting the government's financial house in order is an essential step toward restoring economic growth. One hopeful sign is the president's commitment, in the proposed budget summary to be released tomorrow, to ban accounting gimmicks that President Bush embraced. It's a refreshing, more honest approach that will give the public a better picture of the crushing deficits that need to be addressed...The nation should know the true scope of its financial troubles to get serious about fixing them. Obama's move toward more honest budgeting is a good step.” – **Philadelphia Enquirer, 2/25/09**

“[I]t was reassuring that President Barack Obama made long-term deficit reduction a focus this week and a theme of his prime-time address Tuesday night. Obama needed to assure Americans seeing eye-popping sums go out the door that he would not ignore waste and long-term consequences and that he would demand sacrifice. A majority of Americans are expressing both confidence in his leadership and, for the moment, patience, with no certainty of a quick fix.” – **San Jose Mercury News, 2/25/09**

“In his first prime-time address before a joint session of Congress, Obama made it clear that a day of reckoning was here, but that the country can rebuild over time and emerge stronger...He minced no words on how the country got into the mess: by thinking short-term and prizing short-term gains. Thirty-six days into his presidency, Obama exuded confidence and resolve in challenging the country to embrace big ideas for American prosperity, much needed to reverse decades of underinvestment...But Obama didn't just unveil a budget agenda. He set a new tone for thinking about government action.” – **Sacramento Bee, 2/25/09**

“But hard times focus the public's attention on great needs, and it is encouraging to see how the responsibility theme appears to be developing momentum... Obama and Congress face the paradox of having to spend money lavishly to rescue the financial system and limit a menacing recession, while preparing to cut spending and raise taxes to avoid longer-term disaster. In his address, the president convincingly made the case for the first. But the second is the more challenging because of the sacrifice it demands and the ideological fault lines it crosses. For a quarter-century, neither party has proved up to the task. But an eloquent, popular president governing in tough times possesses unique power. Ronald Reagan proved that three decades ago. Obama showed similar stuff in tougher times Tuesday night.” – **USA Today, 2/25/09**